Message

From: Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/12/2020 4:27:35 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric [Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Urgent: Oxitec Press Follow-Up

Is this CBI free?

Mike Mendelsohn, Chief
Emerging Technologies Branch
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P)
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On May 12, 2020, at 12:26 PM, Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov> wrote:

Mike,

Below is a really short cut, I'm not sure we can say much more than that below. The cooperators are considered confidential correct.

Thanks.

Eric Bohnenblust, Ph.D
Senior Biologist
Emerging Technologies Branch (ETB)
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD)
Phone: 703-347-0426
Email: Bohnenblust.eric@epa.gov

From: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Oxitec Press Follow-Up

Eric,

Can you do the first cut at a response? Thanks.

Mike

From: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Urgent: Oxitec Press Follow-Up

Hi there,

We got a follow-up Oxitec question, in yellow, deadline is ASAP. Below the follow-up question is what we originally provided.

I just would like to know if the data generated under this EUP are only produced by Oxitec or if a third party is involved in the evaluation.

Oxitec will be working with local third party cooperators to conduct the releases in Florida and Texas.

EPA previously provided:

Question 1: Why do the releases not occur within 500 meters of sewage treatment facilities and any farm producing citrus crops?
Response 1: This restriction is to ensure female OX5034 Aedes aegypti mosquitoes do not encounter levels of tetracycline in the environment that will result in survival of adult OX5034 female mosquitoes. Female OX5034 Aedes aegypti mosquitoes can survive when exposed to a high enough dose of tetracycline.

A compilation of release recapture studies around the world found that most Ae. aegypti mosquitoes are recovered within 20 to 50 meters of the release point, with a small percentage found at 170 meters but generally not more than 200 meters from the release point. Therefore, a restriction of 500 meters from potential sources (200 m for released OX5034 males + 200 m for mated Ae. aegypti females + 100 m of additional buffer) provides a conservative buffer zone to prevent OX5034 mosquitoes from encountering tetracycline in the environment. Additional detailed discussion can be found in EPA's Response to Comments in Part VI.B. in the response to comment document (document ID: EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0355).

Question 2: How are you controlling the effectiveness of the Oxitec technology?
Response 2: The purpose of the Experimental Use Permit is for Oxitec to determine the efficacy of the OX5034 Aedes aegypti mosquitoes for controlling populations of wild Ae. aegypti mosquitoes. EPA reviewed the proposed protocol to determine efficacy, thus ensuring the methods used to evaluate efficacy are appropriate and scientifically valid. EPA would evaluate the data generated under this EUP in a future application to support a product registration under Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Question 3: Why does EPA decide to restrict the release (20 000 mosquitoe / week / acre) ?
Response 3: Oxitec proposed 20,000 adult male mosquitoes/week/acre as the maximum application rate. EPA's evaluation of the application was based on this proposed maximum application rate.

Christina Motilall *(she/her/hers)*
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